# ROADRUNNER

#### SEPTEMBER 2025

#### **VOLUME 2025-09**



#### FROM THE DIRECTOR ~ DANIELLE WEINTRAUB

September always feels like a fresh start – new notebooks, new routines, and (fingers crossed) a hint of cooler mornings. Around campus, you'll see the same spirit: neighbors returning from summer trips, clubs gearing back up, and lots of friendly bustle.

This month we're giving an extra round of applause to our Environmental Services team during Housekeeping Week. If you spot an EVS teammate making our spaces sparkle, please share a smile or a "thank you" – it means the world. We'll also mark the U.S. Air Force Birthday on September 18 – I'm grateful for the veterans, families, and supporters who make Blue Skies such a special community. As always, if you need anything, stop by Resident Services or call the Front Desk. Wishing you a month of good conversations, easy mornings, and just the right dose of pumpkin-spice optimism.

# SAVE THE DATE:

Monday, Sep 1 – Labor Day Holiday, minimal staffing

– AFIO Chapter Meeting, RR Lounge, 12pm

Tuesday, Sep 2 - Rotary Club Presentation, RR Lounge, 12pm

Thursday, Sep 4 - State of the Village, RR Lounge & Lakeview, 2pm

Thursday, Sep 11 - DRAC Meeting, RR lounge, 1:30pm

Wednesday, Sep 10 - DFCS Presentation, RR Lounge, 10am

Thursday, Sep 11 - USAF Band of the West, BSTE Legacy Room, 2pm (transportation provided)

Monday, Sep 15 – Halloween Bake Sale Kick off! Front Desk, All Day (proceeds go towards the Employee Halloween costume contest)

Thursday, Sep 18- RC Meeting, RR Lounge, 1:30pm

Thursday, Sep 25 - Annual Flu Shots, BSTW Check in CC3, 8:30am-12pm (deadline for consent forms is Sep 8)

Friday, Sep 26 – Annual Flu Shots, BSTE Check in CC1, 8:30am-12pm (deadline for consent forms is Sep 8)



# **New Residents**

Please give the following new residents a warm Blue Skies West "Welcome" in your respective neighborhoods.

John McKeon, #322 Walter & Nancy Harrington, #638 Richard & Sandra Young, #2208

**Deadline** to submit articles for the next Roadrunner is Monday, **September 22.** 

Submit articles using the form: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/BSTnewsletters">bit.ly/BSTnewsletters</a>
Next Publication Date:
Tuesday, **September 30.** 

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD By Darrell Jones, President / CEO

Every year, each Blue Skies of Texas campus recognizes a person, persons or organization that has/have contributed significantly to the betterment of Blue Skies of Texas. The award is given either for a sustained period of superior performance, or a specific meritorious act or achievement. Distinguished Service Award nominations may include residents, board members and any friends of BST who have no direct affiliation with BST. Any resident, Board member, or staff member of either campus may make nominations. Please submit your nominations to the Resident Services Director, Danielle Weintraub, containing a brief narrative of the nominee's contribution or achievement, no later than Friday, October 21.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, USAF!

In 1947, President Truman signed the National Security Act to provide a comprehensive program for the future security of the United States and established the US Air Force as an independent service. On Sep 18, 1947, Chief Justice Fred Vinson swore in Stuart Symington as the first secretary of the Air Force, officially founding the new branch of the U.S. military. The official birthday of the US Air Force is Sep 18, 1947. (Source: History.state.gov, Council of Foreign Relations & Military.com)

By Heather Ransom, Chief Operations Officer

### Meet Our New Lawn Care Helpers! By Heather Ransom, Chief Operations Officer

If you've been out and about lately, you may have noticed something new buzzing quietly across our lawns, robot lawnmowers! Thanks to our new landscaping partners at Prestonwood, Blue Skies is bringing a touch of modern technology to our beautiful grounds.

These machines may look like they belong in a science-fiction movie, but they're actually hard at work helping us keep the campus looking sharp. They quietly move around on their own, trimming the grass with precision and freeing up our landscaping crew to focus on flowers, trees, and all the extra touches that make our community shine.

So next time you see one of our robotic helpers gliding by, give it a smile. They're here to make sure our lawns stay green, neat, and welcoming for everyone!



# Exciting Update: A New Way to Submit Newsletter Articles! \*

We are always looking for ways to make our community communications more efficient, organized, and resident friendly.

Beginning September 1, we will be using a new process for submitting articles to the Roadrunner and Friday Flyer.

Instead of emailing your article directly, you will now submit it through a simple Google Form . This will help us streamline the process, keep submissions organized, and ensure nothing gets overlooked.

Here are the places to find the submission form:

- Newsletters tab on Uniquest
- · QR Code or link at the front desk

We are excited about this improvement and appreciate your support in making our newsletters the very best they can be. Thank you for helping us keep the newsletters engaging, informative, and enjoyable for everyone.

#### **Rollaway Bed Requests**

To better serve our residents and guests, we ask that all requests for rollaway beds be submitted to Environmental Services 7 to 10 days in advance of the anticipated need. Requests made 30 days in advance are not effective in ensuring availability, and requests made without proper notice cannot be guaranteed. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us accommodate your needs in a timely manner.

#### Pet Cleaning and Care

Kindly note that housekeepers are not responsible for providing pet-related services. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

#### Holiday Schedule - Monday, Sep 1

is Labor Day, a Federal holiday. As such, there will not be any mail delivery. Broadway Bank will also be closed. All transportation to WHASC and/or SAMMC and the med center will be suspended for Monday, Sep 1, as these facilities will be closed for normal appointments.

This is also a BST holiday, so there will be minimal staffing, and all BST transportation is suspended for that day.

#### **Alterations Announcement**

Patricia Bobo is available to take appointments at this time and can be reached at 210-673-3329 or 210-860-6726.

#### **Who Does What? Carpet Cleaning**

When it comes to carpet care, responsibilities are divided as follows:

- <u>Traffic Area Cleaning</u> Overseen by Environmental Services and can be scheduled through Larissa Alejo, EVS Manager, 210-568-3241.
- <u>Deep Carpet Cleaning</u> Available through Sparkling Clean for a fee. To arrange service, please contact Mark Zamarripa at 210-561-5167.
- BST Maintenance Please note that carpet cleaning is not provided by BST Maintenance.

For questions or scheduling, please reach out to the appropriate contact above.

Gate Hours of Operation (keep in mind that

staffing can affect these hours)

John Ryan Gate

Monday - Friday: 6am - 8pm Saturday & Sunday: 8am-4pm

Freedom House

Monday - Friday: 6am-8pm

Closed weekends

#### **Resident Gate Sensors**

If you are a resident and do not yet have a gate sensor, please stop by the Resident Services Office or contact Teresa Santana to have one activated. Sensors are for residents only.

#### **Spectrum News**

Did you know that Spectrum offers Cloud DVR or Cloud DVR Plus! With Cloud DVR/DVR Plus you can record up to 50 or 100 shows whenever you want. For additional information, please contact Spectrum at 1-833-697-7328.





### **Golf Cart Parking Guidelines**

Golf carts are not permitted to be parked in the entry areas of the Main Building, Tower entries, or the Vista. All golf carts must be parked in the designated parking areas.



#### **Gate Call Boxes**

If you need to use a gate call box due to a sensor error, please follow the directions posted on the box.

If the call does not go through and you hear a beeping sound, press any key to stop the noise, or simply wait a few seconds.
Allow a short pause before dialing again—this gives the call box time to reset and clear.
Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

# TWhere to Find Your Activities at a Glance!

Starting in September, all Uniguest activity slides will be printed each month and posted on the new bulletin board in CC3 and in the Activities Office (Room #102 in the Wellness Hall).

This change helps free up the framed board in the main lobby and cuts down on flyers in the elevators.

Don't worry—you'll still be able to find all Blue Skies activities in lots of places:

- Channel 1890
- · Activities Module in the Uniquest App
- The Newsletter
- Bulletin Board in CC3
- Activities Office (Room #102, Wellness Hall)

Plenty of ways to stay in the loop and never miss an activity!

And keep an eye out for an upcoming Activities Survey—we want to hear from you!

# # Need a Ride? Here's How to Catch the Blue Skies Shuttle! ₹ □

To keep things running smoothly, here's what you need to know when scheduling transportation:

- Plan Ahead: All requests must be submitted by 12:00 PM (noon) the business day before your appointment.
- For Monday Appointments: Please get your request in by 12:00 PM the Friday before.
- Earlier is Better: Submitting early gives us plenty of time to schedule and makes everything easier for you!

#### Mays to Schedule Transportation:

- On the Uniguest app under the Transportation Module
- Call Transportation at 210.247.6119
- Call the Front Desk at 210.677.8666
- · Or stop by in person!

Please note: Weekly scheduled mall trips have been removed from the transportation schedule. Instead, there will now be one special mall trip each month, and sign-up will be required.

Your cooperation helps us make sure every ride is on time and stress-free.



# Wolunteer Driving Program Update – Blue Skies West

Blue Skies West has long benefited from a volunteer driving program that helps residents get to important appointments. This program supplements (but does not replace) our formal transportation system.

#### Where to Find the List

A list of current volunteer drivers will now be posted in CC3, the Front Desk, and the Transportation Office.

#### Steps for Arranging a Ride

- 1. Check the bus schedule first.
- 2. If the bus schedule does not meet your needs, contact one of the following for assistance:
- Alonzo: 210-371-6883
- Alex Stark: 210-842-2927
- Uber/Lyft or other rideshare services
- 3. If none of these options work, you may then check the list of volunteer drivers to see if an arrangement can be made.

#### **Important Notes**

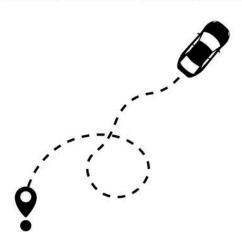
Volunteer drivers are available for medical appointments only.

Volunteers cannot provide rides if you will be receiving sedation.

# Looking for More Volunteers!

To ensure the program is sustainable, we are seeking additional volunteer drivers, so the responsibility is shared.

If you are interested in helping, please contact David Brands or John Siebert.



# Welcoming Restaura – A New Chapter in Dining at Blue Skies

We're excited to announce that Restaura will officially take over dining services at Blue Skies of Texas on 1 November! This decision came after a three-phase search that began in May with six different vendors competing for the opportunity to serve our community. Residents participated at every stage, including tasting events from our two finalists, Nexdine and Restaura, and sharing feedback through scorecards and conversations. After reviewing all input, Restaura was chosen for their fresh approach, scratch-made cooking, and commitment to outstanding hospitality.

While Restaura will bring exciting new flavors, seasonal dishes, and creative menu options, your favorite meals and comforting classics will remain, just elevated with high-quality ingredients and thoughtful preparation. They'll also introduce innovative software that tracks resident dining preferences, helping them personalize meals and experiences. All current dining employees will be offered comparable positions with Restaura, along with excellent benefits, hospitality training, and career growth opportunities.

The next few months will be filled with planning and anticipation as we prepare for this exciting change. Please join us in thanking our Morrison staff for their dedication and service, and in giving Restaura a warm Blue Skies welcome!

#### **Beware of PHISHING Scams!**

In today's digital world, scammers are becoming more creative—and more convincing—when trying to steal personal information. One of the most common tricks is called phishing. What is Phishing? Phishing is when a scammer pretends to be someone you trust to trick you into giving away protected and sensitive information through email, text message, or phone calls. Recently, our community members have received phishing emails from scammers pretending to be from USAA, Social Security Administration, and the IRS.

#### Red Flags you should watch for:

- Urgent or threatening language –
   Messages claiming "your account will be
   closed" or "you'll lose benefits" unless you
   act immediately.
- Suspicious links They may say "Click here to verify your information." The link often takes you to a fake website.
- Requests for personal information –
   Legitimate companies will never ask you
   to confirm sensitive details through email
   or text.
- Strange email addresses Even if the name looks familiar, the email address may be slightly different or misspelled.

#### Best ways to protect yourself:

- 1. Pause before you click and verify the source!
- 2. Do NOT share personal or financial details through an unverified email and never through text.
- 3. Use strong passwords.

If you think you've been targeted or received any suspicious communications, do not respond to the message. Reach out to the source through another method (i.e. calling your bank via a trusted phone number). Being cautious isn't being rude, it's being safe! Scammers count on people acting quickly without thinking. Take your time, double-check, and protect your information.

# Charitable Gift Annuities – Receiving Fixed Payments, Making A Future Gift

By Mitch Millar, Development Associate

Establishing a charitable gift annuity (CGA) with the Air Force Villages Charitable Foundation may be an excellent option for you, for more than one reason!

A CGA with the Charitable Foundation is established with an amount of \$10,000 or more, as an irrevocable gift. Advantages for you as a gift annuitant include:

Quarterly payments based on a fixed rate of return (established by the American Council on Gift Annuities) which are partially tax-free through the annuitant's calculated life expectancy. Table at right is for a single-life annuity.

A one-time charitable deduction, usually 40%-50% of the annuity amount.

The "charitable" aspect of a charitable gift annuity: any remainder from the CGA after you pass will benefit the AFVCF charitable fund of your choice.

In the case of a two-life CGA, while the two-life rate is lower than that of a single-life gift annuity, after one of the individuals passes, full payments continue to the second person through their lifetime.

In the case of a CGA funded with appreciated stock, capital gains tax is spread out over the duration of the CGA, rather than being incurred at once.

If you would like a confidential, no-obligation quote for a CGA, or have other questions about our gift annuity program, please stop by the Corporate Office at BSTW, contact me at (210) 568-3211 or email at <a href="millan@blueskiestx.org">mitchmillan@blueskiestx.org</a>.



	Rate of
Age	Return
65	5.7%
66	5.8%
67	5.9%
68	6.1%
69	6.2%
70	6.3%
71	6.4%
72	6.6%
73	6.7%
74	6.8%
75	7.0%
76	7.2%
77	7.4%
78	7.6%
79	7.8%
80	8.1%
81	8.3%
82	8.5%
83	8.7%
84	8.9%
85	9.1%
86	9.3%
87	9.5%
88	9.7%
89	9.9%
90+	10.1%

#### Friday Night Lights Presents...

Be on the ball as leaves start to tumble and fall. Do you own a iPhone, iPad or any Apple device? If so, have you recently gotten an "Apple Security Alert" text? This text is alerting you that someone has allegedly made a large purchase after gaining access to the recipient's Apple ID. These text messages will display different scenarios such as: "We have detected unusual activity on your Apple ID associated with a transaction at Apple Store-CA for \$\$\$, made via Apple told they must verify their identity by completing a security challenge and then changing their password.

How does this scam work? Well, the scammers are creating a sense of urgency that the user must quickly act without verifying the legitimacy of the message. When someone believes their money has been stolen and used for an unauthorized purchase, they're more likely to follow the prompts and they end up falling for the scam.

Never follow the prompts that the text message gives you. When in doubt reach out to your bank institution to confirm whether or not the charges are real or call Apple directly.



# Resident Services Announcements HAPPY WORKIVERSARY

Employee Name	Hire Date	Years of Service	Department	
MACIAS, CECILIA	09/17/2024	Personal Care Center		
OLGUIN, ANGELINA SELENE	09/25/2024	1	Personal Care Center	
VELEZ, LESLIE	09/03/2024	1	Resident Services	
CLARK, CHANTE LEBRIQUE	09/30/2024	1	Resident Services	
PEREZ ZARAZUA, EVELYN ABIGAIL	09/12/2024	1	Environmental Services	
ROBLES, DESTINY	09/17/2024	1	Environmental Services	
DANA, HILDA CATALINA	09/10/2024	1	Wellness	
MORALES, ALMA	8/15/2023	2	Arnold House - Assisted Living	
CRUZ, GERONIMO	8/18/2023	2	Resident Services	
OSOWSKI, STACEY CHRISTINE	09/06/2019	2	Dining Services	
PERSAUD, SHAVAN	09/26/2023	2	Mission-Healthcare	
CERECERES, CHRISTIAN VANESSA	09/04/2019	3	Personal Care Center	
CHIMAL, ADELA	09/16/2022	3	Dining Services	
ESCOBAR, PATRICIA	09/23/2022	3	Environmental Services	
NICHOLS, ELLIS COOPER	09/30/2016	4	Maintenance	
COMPEAN, VICTOR	09/02/2021	4	Dining Services	
WILLIS, DEVIN	09/20/2021	4	Environmental Services	
GALVAN, NORA	09/21/2021	4	Environmental Services	
GARAY, ROSA ISELA	09/13/2021	4	Mission-Healthcare	
SMALLS, JACQUELYN	09/27/2021	4	Mission-Healthcare	
DIVECHA, VAISHALI	09/01/2020	5	Personal Care Center	
JONES, WILMA DIONALDO	09/27/2019	6	Dining Services	
AGUIRRE, JOSEPHINE	09/30/2019	6	Resident Services	
OCAMPO, MARISOL	09/16/2019	6	Resident Services	
RANGEL, VANESSA	09/10/2018	7	Environmental Services	
MEDRANO, ADRIAN	09/14/2018	7	Finance	
DIAZ, GLORIA	09/15/2017	8	Environmental Services	
ESPIRICUETA, PAULA	09/29/2017	8	Liberty House-Assisted Living	
MARTINEZ, LETICIA GARCIA	09/16/2016	9	Environmental Services	
SOLIS, GUADALUPE	09/26/2014	11	Beauty Shop	
GIL, ANGEL	09/23/2011	14	Finance	
WILLIAMSON, TERESA	09/07/2007	17	Dining Services	
YANEZ, CYNTHIA	09/12/2008	17	Finance	
MORENO, MARIA	09/14/2007	18	Environmental Services	
HINSON, RUSSELL	09/18/2006	19	Personal Care Center	
GUERRA, DELIA	09/12/2006	19	Environmental Services	
DAVIS, JOHN	09/20/2005	20	Maintenance	
BAIN, CYNTHIA V	09/12/2000	25	Mission-Healthcare	
RENTERIA, FERNANDO	09/22/1998	27	Maintenance	
CAMPOS, CHARLES	09/14/1993	32	Liberty House- Maintenance	

#### **Maintenance Announcements**

#### **Pest Control Schedule**

Blue Skies of Texas - West 2025							
September	Tower	Cottages	Specials	Ranch Homes			
9/5/2025	331-338, 341-348, 431-438	1700	Village Center, Kitchen, HCC - Off. & A Wing	811, 813, 815, 817			
9/12/2025	411-418, 421-428	1800	Exterior Main Bldg. (Tower)	821, 823, 825, 826			
9/19/2025	511-518, 521-528	1900-2000	Liberty House, HCC - B & C Wing	827, 828, 829, 830			
9/26/2025	531-538, 541-548	2100-2200	Freedom House - Int./Ext.	831, 834, 835, 836, Pavillion			

#### **Prestonwood Landscape Updates**

Dear Residents,

We hope you're enjoying your summer and staying cool! As your landscaping team, we wanted to share a quick update on what's happening throughout the community and what to expect in the coming weeks:

Summer Stress on Plants & Turf

We're still in peak summer heat, and some turf and plants are showing drought stress. Cooler fall temps should arrive within a few weeks to help recovery.

Turf Hot Spots

We're identifying and treating dry spots throughout the turf. Please allow 2–3 weeks for these areas to bounce back

🍁 Fall Mulch

We've began and will continue mulching the common areas.

Irrigation Schedule

Morning & evening - Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri

Thanks for your patience and support!

- Prestonwood Team

#### **Freedom House Support Group**

The Support Group provides a forum for those caring for loved ones with varied forms of dementia. Meet others who are experiencing similar circumstances and sharing their thoughts and issues. On Thursday, **September 4**, at 1:30pm the Support Group will meet at the Freedom House Chapel. We will be viewing a PBS film on Caregiving for Alzheimer's. If possible, join us for lunch at noon in the Lakeview Dining Room. Caring for the caregiver is as important as caring for your loved ones! Questions: contact Jane Hill

#### AARP Safety Driving Course ~ Paula Haley

OK Blue Skies Residents it's time to take the class. If you haven't signed up yet you still have a few days before the class starts. The class will start on **September 5** and that's just a few days away. Your insurance will cover for three years so if it's been that long you will need to take the class. Go to CC3 and sign up. Besides listening to outstanding instructors, we also serve great cookies and coffee. Hope you see you there.

# Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society

The Alamo Chapter of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society will meet at 10am on Wednesday, September 10 in the Roadrunner Lounge at Blue Skies West. Tom Keck will discuss his experience as Commander of the 8th Air Force on September 11, 2001. Air Force One, carrying President George W. Bush, landed at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana after the terrorist attacks. The plane had initially departed from Sarasota, Florida, but was rerouted due to the unfolding events and security concerns. Barksdale served as a temporary base of operations where President Bush addressed the nation for the first time after the attacks. All residents of Blue Skies of Texas East and West are invited to attend.

#### Senior Wheels News - James Schuster

Since last month's article, the club lost a club member (Jasper Sims). He will be missed. However, the club also gained two new members (Paul and Mardena Campbell). BST Senior Wheels held four campus rides in August. Riders avoided the seasonal temperatures and humidity by riding in the morning.

This picture, taken by club member Lu Schuster, shows members gathered before one of the rides. The club plans four weekly September rides. These dates are:

- September 6
- September 13 (Photo Day)
- September 20
- September 27

Riders gather at the main building flagpole at 7:20am and the ride starts at 7:30am. The length of the ride and its duration depends on the participants' capability but always at 45 minutes.

The club uses the buddy system, so no one rides alone. No experience necessary. Did you know that the club has bikes for residents who want to join the ride but do not own a bike. Finally, the main bike club room is now secured with a digital lock. A couple of bike spaces are now available for bike storage. This was created by the recent bike usage evaluation.



#### Tennis And Pickleball at BSTW

Our Tennis and Pickleball courts offer a great opportunity for fun and exercise. Please come out and join us for Tennis on Monday and Friday mornings and for Pickleball on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Please contact Linda Prose for details on the start times. My phone number is in the Resident Directory. See y'all out there!



#### Gadabouts

If you are single or caring for loved one and living alone, join the Gadabouts for lunch! On Friday, **September 12**, we're headed for The Cheesecake Factory at La Cantera. Van leaves at 10:30am and signup notebook is in the small CC room. Signup soon as this fills up quickly!

Questions: contact Jane Hill

Red Hat Luncheon ~ Hosted by Vivian Ray Friday, September 19, at 11:30am, at Pesto Ristorante At The Yard in Olmos Park 5221 McCullough Ave, San Antonio, TX 78212.

Please be in the lobby by 10:30 am. The bus leaves at 10:45 am.

If you sign up, you need to ride the bus. If the bus fills up, you can then drive yourself.

When you sign up on the sheet in CC3, INDICATE "W" if you are using a Walker or a Wheelchair because the bus only accommodates one wheelchair. If you sign up and can't go, you must remove your name from the sheet by the Wednesday morning before the luncheon because you will be charged the transportation cost if you are a "no call, no show."

# RC Holding Elections for 2026 - Corlea Plowman

It's time to consider representing your neighbors on the Residents' Council. The Blue Skies Residents' Council serves as the Air Force Villages, Inc. (AFV) Board of Directors' officially sanctioned liaison between BSTW residents and the BSTW/AFV Management. The RC provides up-to-date information between Management and Residents and may also assist in problem resolution.

RC membership is comprised of two (2) Area Representatives from each geographic area of BSTW: Towers I, II, III, IV; Lakes 1200-1500; Lakes 1600-2000; Oaks 2100-2400, Oaks 2500-2800; and the Gardens.

Forms of Intent to Stand for Election to the RC are at the front desk, along with a box for deposit. Even if you are in the first or second year of your three-year term, you must complete a form of Intent to Stand for Election. Executive Committee forms are due by noon September 15 and Area Representative forms are due by 7pm, October 31. Installation is in December and those elected begin their duties in January 2026.





#### Sept 10 B&A Says 'Happy Bday' to USAF - Corlea Plowman

All BST West residents and guests are invited to join friends and neighbors Wednesday, **September 10**, at the Birthday and Anniversary event (B&A). Doors open for the hosted Social Hour in CC1-3 Rooms at 5pm. Dinner service in the Lakeview Room is at 6pm. Cactus Country Trio will play Country/Western music.

Al Johnson will be available to take Birthday & Anniversary pictures 4:00-5:30 pm in the Helen LeMay Room. Please check in with Judy Howen.

The dinner includes:

STARTER: Heirloom Tomato & Mozzarella Salad with Basil Oil, Balsamic Glaze & Spring Mix

ENTRÉE: 10oz Bone-In Pork Rib Chop, Caramelized Fennel, Sharp Cheddar Mashed

Potatoes, Fried Brussels Sprouts & Apple Cider Demi

DESSERT: Apple Bread Pudding drizzled with Caramel Sauce

BREAD: Honey Butter Biscuit.

Water, Coffee or Iced Tea Included

\$30 Per Person

Alternative Entrée: Sweet Chili Gulf Shrimp

Dinner reservations are required. All those planning to attend, including guests, must sign up on the Sign-Up List in CC3. If you need to cancel after 11 am Monday, September 8, call the Dining Services Office (210-568-3232). If you wish to create a table of 6-8, call Bonnie Gardner or Donna Bowman. Seating will be assigned for all others. Reservations are not taken through the Dining Room for this event.

Hosts for the Happy Hour are Bill & Linda Ball, Leo & Elaine Bell Jr, Ray & Fran Bell, Fr Richard Bendorf, Karl & Mary Bourgeois, Bonnie Conrardy, Julie Conrardy, Bill & Judi Butkovich, Tom & Blaine Craig, Dan & Marti Corcoran, Karen Davis, John & Diane Dill, Mike & Peggy Durack, Jerry & Mary Elder, Fred & Martha Glauner, Roman & Joann Gonzales, Jerre & Kathy Griffin, Carl & Elaine Halada, Charles Hobbs, Kyle Hood, Tom & Luanne Jones, Ralph & Edie Kelly, Bill & Brenda Lee, Don MacNeill, Bill & Dee Mann, David & Diane Marx, Mac & Karen McDonald, Jim & Kim McGoldrick, Kevin & Jeanne Marie McNamara, Red & Pat Natkin, Jim & Vickie Phelps, Jerry & Judy Pierce, Walter Pike, Jim & Vivian Ray, Tom & June Reedy, Dennis & Denise Rosenberry, James & Lu Schuster, Bob Seper. Bruce & Susan Singletary, Mike & Sylvia Slominski, Doug & Merry Stewart, Clare Taylor, Mark & Marti Wessman, Kent & Gerry Williams, Peggy Wright, and Peter & Karen Yancich.

#### Ham to the Rescue by Betty Overacker

On Friday, July 11, 2025, a mother and her 9year-old son were reported overdue for a day trip to Camp Wolfeboro, a popular scout camp in the Sierra Nevada Mountains located in California's Stanislaus National Forest. Fortunately, the next day the Calaveras County Volunteer Search and Rescue Team (SAR) was conducting its monthly training exercise received notification about the lost Mother and her son were missing since the previous day, and were not answering their cell phones. The SAR team contacted the SOS Command Post and received four wheel drive vehicles and air support. Shortly before 6pm, the lost mother and her son were found. The SAR team members were unable to communicate this message to their command post using conventional frequencies and cell phones from their deep woods location. So they used their amateur radio frequency to report this emergency. The call was immediately answered by a retired Amateur Radio Operator from his home, who immediately notified the local El Dorada 911 Center. Shortly thereafter, Mother and son were safely transported to waiting family members. To maintain communication skill and proficiency, the Blue Skies Amateur Radio Club Members have a weekly over the air "rag chew" session on their portable hand held radios to assure our safety during emergencies. The next Amateur Radio Club Meeting is on September 16 at 11am in Room 11 in the Vista. For further information, please contact Bob Stuckert.

#### 73-Best Regards in Ham Language

#### Woody Woodrow HAM's it up!

On Tuesday, August 19 Woody and Susan Woodrow came to the Blue Skies HAM amateur radio club meeting to tell his hilarious story of the disastrous call he made to his wife Susan, from Vietnam using the MARS system, as he was flying home from a mission. Because of the time difference he reached her back in the states in the middle of the night and got a big surprise! His story sparked a lot of unusual tales from HAM members who had also used the MARS system, and the president of our HAM club, Bob Stuckert, was a relay operator working from Guam around that time so he might have forwarded that very call himself. Woody's story turned the meeting into a lively discussion of MARS events by other HAM members. If you've ever used the HAM radio system, or if you would like to learn how to do it, contact Bob Stuckert (contact information in our Roster). HAM meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 11am in room 11 of the Vista. All are welcome to attend.



#### The Dabblers ~ Cynthia Allen

Display case: 1st Floor East wing near

Towers 3 & 4 Elevators.

Right around the corner from the library book return.

Come take a look at what's offered.

All items are handmade by a BST-W resident. If you'd like to be part of The Dabblers, give me a call—we'd love to have you join us and help our group grow!

#### Look for us in the local spring and fall Craft Fairs.

The items are sold at the onsite Craft Fairs and in the Gift Cabinet. The funds earned are then used for specific projects at BST-W or other charities as voted for by its members.

#### We have purchased:

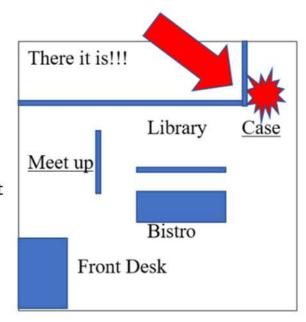
- Ping Pong table
- Janitor cart and outfitted the end of year purchase
- \$ US flags and Swags for holiday decoration
- \$ Dining room table vases
- Donation to:
  - JROTC
  - o Alzheimer's Research
  - Village Voices
  - BSTW Entertainment Committee and others

### Join the STITCHES Group!

We get together, as a fluid group, on Monday and Fridays around 1:30 in the library area. We refer to the group as STITCHES and you are all welcome to come sit, have a chat and/or work on your project. Don't have a project? We have a couple of ongoing projects to do, then move them along. Come check us out.

### Meet The Newcomers ~ Layne Perelli

The BSTW Entertainment Committee will be hosting a "Getting to Know You" Party on Sunday, **September 28** in The Roadrunner. All Newcomers arriving at Blue Skies after September 2024 are invited and will receive a special invitation. The Party will start promptly at 5pm! Bring your favorite dish to share with others. Adult beverages are also ok. But afterwards, from 6:30-8pm, all residents are encouraged to come by and schmooze with our newest inhabitants and enjoy a Surprise Entertainment Program starting at 6:30pm. Your most gracious hostess for the Soirée is Paula Haley.





#### **BSTW Art Scene**

We are fortunate to have active artists in this community. As you walk around the tower take time to enjoy the original work hanging on the walls, sitting in display cases or atop furniture. If your heart leaps with joy at a particular piece, perhaps this is something you would like to have in your own home. Some artists are willing to sell their work. Business cards with contact information are near the work, feel free to speak to the creators. If you are a resident of Blue Skies and want to share your creative work, we would like very much to find display space for you. Call Sandra (Sandi) Snyder for assistance. Sandi's contact phone number and or email is in your BSTW resident directory.



### Jerry Garcia Tie/Scarf Sunday Brunch Society

The Jerry Garcia Tie/Scarf Sunday Brunch Society met and dined on 3 Aug. Membership is up to 26. We would enjoy having more beautifully-dressed diners join us. Our grand news is that a street had been named for Jerry Garcia and a new beer, Jerry Garcia Juicy Pale Ale, is brewing. Go Grateful Dead fans!!! We know these are due ALL to our small-butgrowing society.

Please join us at 11:45am, **December 7**, as we close out the year and look lovely, welcoming our latest meal service provider.

#### **Blue Skies Handbells**

It is not too late to join the Blue Skies West Handbell Choir! We are still welcoming members in September. If you can read music and attend all rehearsals, we invite you to join us every Thursday from 10:30-1130am in the Blue Skies West craft room (down the hall between the chapel and the beauty shop). We are rehearsing a variety of Christmas and Holiday music we plan to perform in December in various venues.

Please join us!

#### **Blue Skies Village Voices**

It's not too late! The Village Voices choir is still welcoming members in September. If you have sung in a choir and/or can read music, please join us for rehearsals every Tuesday from 1:30-3:30pm in the Blue Skies West chapel. The choir is rehearsing a variety of music and we plan to sing for Veterans Day in November, our regular Christmas and Holiday Programs in December. Please join us!



#### GRAZING IN SAN ANTONIO By: The Clandestine Gourmet

Ever heard of Beethoven Männerchor? No? Männerchor - "men's choir", is the name given to German social clubs. Germans migrated to America in 1922, landed in Ellis Island, and came by train to Texas, where the New Braunfels German Choir greeted them by singing songs in their native language!

Beethoven Männerchor in San Antonio was founded in 1867. Yes, 1867! Children sing in the Kinderchor, and women sing in the Damenchor. Now 158 years old, Beethoven Männerchor also has three bands - a concert band, a dance band, and a Big Band for swing and jazz. Beethoven Männerchor in King William district is a true German Biergarten offering music, many kinds of German beers, and a small food menu with bratwurst, goulasch, frikadelle (German burgers), Reuben sandwiches, and sauerkraut, plus pretzels and dessert cakes. And did I mention German beer?

Everything is good and reasonably priced. It's a great place to enjoy German food and music, sing, dance, and just have fun. The Männerchor and Damenchor rehearse on Tuesday evenings, the Beethoven Concert Band on Wednesday evenings. You can even become a Männerchor member! "To be a singer, you do not need to sing well or know German, but be willing to come and give it a try; yes, we do work to get the best sound out of all the voices, but at the same time, we have a lot of fun during our rehearsals."

Oktoberfest here will be special, with authentic Oktoberfest events on **October 3, 5, 10, and 11.** Beethoven Männerchor is located at 422 Pereida Street.

Beethoven Männerchor, 422 Pereida St., San Antonio, Texas 78210; Phone: (210) 222-1521 Open to the public! Visit our Halle und Biergarten 4-11pm, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information: https://beethovensanantonio.com/

{Note: The "Clandestine Gourmet" searches high and low for food that delights, from a wide range of cuisines.}

#### Carol Pratt hosts "Just Around the Riverbend" travel discussion at Blue Skies of Texas

Join Carol Pratt, sponsored by Frieda Shaw, for an informative discussion while learning about the latest vacation opportunities and trends for you!

Carol, a Cruise Planners franchise owner and a specialist in cruises and land vacations, excels at arranging your ideal personalized independent travel experience, including relaxing getaways, all-inclusive cruises, escorted tours, and custom travel. Discover what your next adventure could be! The presentation will be in the Roadrunner on **October 21** from 3-5pm.

Please sign-up to attend on the Uniguest app.

#### About Cruise Planners

Carol Pratt - Cruise Planners, an independently owned and operated franchise, is part of the Signature Travel Network and the nation's largest home-based travel agent franchise company in the travel industry. Cruise Planners' travel professionals independently book amazing vacation and travel experiences for their clients around the world. For more information, please visit www.tinybubblestravel.com.

#### Navy & Marine Corps 250th Birthday Celebration

Attention BST Residents,

Mark your calendars for the celebration of the US Navy's and Marine Corps' 250th Birthday. All residents interested in attending a dinner to recognize this historic event are invited.

The evening will begin with a 60-minute social hour starting at 5pm in the CC rooms, followed by dinner at 6pm on **October 30**. The cost of the dinner is \$35.00, which will be charged to your meal plan. Sign-up guidance will be provided later. Please note that attendance is capped at 96.

The dress code for the event is as follows:

- 1. Coat and tie
- 2. Dress or Skirt
- 3. Dress Mess
- 4. Dress uniform

More information to follow.





#### Follies Alert ~ Marcia Tinsley

To participants in the November Follies, these are your rehearsal dates:

1st Dress Rehearsal: Freedom House, **October 31** at 2pm

2nd Dress Rehearsal: Lakeview Dining Room, **November 7** at 2pm

1st Performance: **November 9** at 7pm 2nd Performance: **November 16** at 7pm Please put these dates on your calendars. Please also let me know when you plan to rehearse before the posted dates above. I would like to come and observe because I will be the host this year and introduce each act. Thank you for your participation.

#### Honoring the US Army - James Schuster

This year, we are recognizing the United States Army as part of our Veterans Day Celebration on **November 11** at 10am in the main lobby. Our speaker will talk about the history of the US Army and its role in defending our country and its borders since 1775.

As with all our residents sponsored activities, we need volunteers.

Specifically, we need: Ushers; organizational flag waivers; and General help. Requirements to perform any of these positions is a willingness to help. No uniform of any type required. If you can lend a hand in support of the celebration, contact either Ralph Kelley at popeye007@earthlink.net or James Schuster at james.a.schuster@outlook.com.

We will have reserved seating for the events Honorees. Deceased BSTW veteran's names will be read and a bell struck in each one's honor. The Blue Skies of Texas Color Guard will present the colors, and the Village Voices will sing a selection of appropriate songs. We ask you to stand when your service Medley is played and Service flag waved. Even if you don't have a full uniform, wear some piece that identifies you to your past service as it helps develop a bond with those who have been there.

#### The Adventures of the Blue Skies Seasoned Soles by John and Pat MacIntyre

The Seasoned Soles finished up their July races with the San Antonio Road Runners Women's 5K. 442 women completed the race in Alamo Heights. Although Pat Perry and Cynthia Cochran just barely missed placing in their age group, they finished in the top third of all runners.

Cynthia and Tom Cochran and Pat Perry also ran in the final 5K race of the Summer Series 5K races. Cynthia finished 2nd in her age group and Tom finished 3rd in his age group.

The most challenging course for local races in Bexar County is held at Pearsall Park. The Dragon's Den 5K and 10K races were held there on the 9th of August. Tom and Cynthia Cochran, John and Pat MacIntyre ran the 5K and Pat Perry ran the 10K.

Tom Cochran and Pat MacIntyre both won awards in their age groups. Pat was 3rd in hers and Tom was 2nd in his. Even though it is a very tough course to run, the accomplishment was worth it. Everyone had a choice of either fajitas or a huge smoked turkey leg for an after-race meal. This month, our traveling Blue Skies Seasoned Soles shirts were seen in Alaska, Vermont and Nijmegen, in the Netherlands. Where will they be seen next month?



















#### Mad Scientist - Dottie Conner

On a Monday morning at 3am, a mad scientist was seen preparing an experiment at garden plot # 23 in the Community Gardens. He was surrounded by 3 possums and 12 raccoons. An alarm went off when nuclear fission was detected by the garden's underground watering system. The Courtesy Officer from the Front Desk was summoned and subdued the scientist before he could light the fuse. Thanks to his speedy efforts, the residents of Blue Skies can sleep safely tonight.



#### Library News ~ Barbara Folkeson and Peggy Durack

Blue Skies residents continue to support the library with donations (both books and sometimes money). Given our shelf space, we keep what we can and the rest is put on the donation table for use by residents and employees. For new residents, there are no due dates or fines to borrow books; we just ask that books are returned when you finish reading. Recent additions include:

Liberty House: Triple Cross (James Patterson, mystery); The Maid (Nita Prose, mystery); Identity (Nora Roberts)

**BSTW Library:** 

Large Print: The Wedding People (Espach; on best seller list); An Inside Job (Silva; mystery) Biography: An Unfinished Job (Doris Kearnes Godwin)

Non-Fiction: Faith Still Moves Mountains (Faulkner religion)

Fiction: The Rising Tide (Jeff Sharra; historical fiction WWII); Cloud Cuckoo Land (Anthon Doerr); The Woman in Suite 11 (Ruth Ware; mystery; best seller list); A Mother's Love (Steel); An Enemy in the Village (Martin Walker; a Bruno, Chief of Police novel)

# **PEO Scholarship Recipient**

Ivonne Torres, Hospice Patient Care Manager, was the selected winner of three submission to win a 2,000 scholarship that was awarded in mid July. What is P.E.O.?

The P.E.O. is a nonprofit organization that has helps women pursue educational goals by providing educational assistance, making a difference in women's lives through six philanthropies and a foundation.

https://www.peointernational.org/

This scholarship was introduced to HR by resident Judy Howen. Judy is the Committee Chair member of P.E.O. local chapter and extended this scholarship opportunity to female Blue Skies Employees and their female dependents.





#### Mac McDonald's 2025 National Silver Award!

Blue Skies has so many talented residents in so many different areas; it makes us glad to know that we are living here with such versatile neighbors, and exciting to have yet another reason to be proud of a fellow resident's achievement such as Mac's sculpture award: Many of us already know about Mac McDonald's talent with sculpture from watching each year on Good Friday before Easter on our High Flight chapel altar when he turns a large lump of clay into the face of Jesus on the cross while we watch, and he explains what it means as he works. Truly an amazing experience that gives a new dimension to our faith. This year a group of art judges showed their appreciation of Mac's talent when they awarded him a 2nd place Silver award in a National contest for his sculpture entitled "Worthy". (see attached photo - notice emptiness of the body, and the very precise nails and joints on the foot) The competition is the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition, conducted by the American Legion and the Veterans Administration. That's a lotta fellow artists to compete against! All the art submissions are judged first by regions (Mac's sculpture was awarded 2nd place in acrylic medium regionally), and the winners are then forwarded to Washington, D.C. to be judged by a national group of judges. The national jury begins their review of submissions from all 50 states in October, and they publish the results in January. Mac received notice that his sculpture had received the award in late January of this year. If you see Mac, be sure to congratulate him on his outstanding award!



#### **Resident Concert Committee**

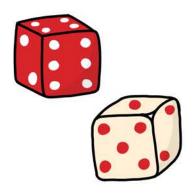
On Sunday, August 17, the Resident Concert Committee was pleased to see a large crowd to welcome the Bazzani Trio + 1 and vocalist Elizabeth Latham. They delivered a rousing performance, playing and singing a variety of music from jazz to show tunes, always keeping the audience engaged. Everyone enjoyed the music so much that they requested and received an encore. All in all, it was a delightful afternoon. Hope you will join us for our next concert.

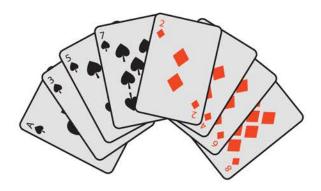
# **SPORTS, GAMES, & SCORES**

#### **Bunco ladies!**

We'll be starting up play again, every first and third Tuesday, beginning **September 2** and again on **September 16**. We meet in CC3 at 3:30pm. Bring \$1 for the 'pot', and if you're a newcomer, bring \$1 for your set of dice. We're also looking for someone to be the facilitator of the group: time involved is 2 hours per month, plus a few more minutes to set-up.

If interested in facilitating fun, please see Annette Johnson or Betty Chalfont.





#### Blue Skies Hand Elbow and Foot

Sixteen Blue Skies card players are engaged in the first Blue Skies Hand Elbow and Foot tournament. A number of additional players have made themselves available to be substitutes should any player require a sub for a planned trip, unplanned illness or any unforeseen absence from the Saturday game time. The card playing continues on Monday evening, Thursday afternoon and at Friday Night Game Night. We are still encouraging new players and stand ready to help you learn the game.

This game is just one of the many activities that Blue Skies offers the residents to help keep the old brain working. If we do have brain shrinkage and low blood flow to the brain causing a reduction in communication between neurons (don't know who measures this stuff) then information available says learning and playing a new game can reduce this reduction in loss of brain functions. So along with your physical exercise and your attention to good nutrition, come learn a new game and enjoy the social benefits of playing cards and the help in keeping your brain young. Any questions, give me a call. Gaye True.



# SPIRITUAL NEWS

#### How then shall we pray?

Prayer Is your prayer life lacking something? Perhaps you may feel the God's not listening or not answering your requests. Sometimes you feel discouraged or maybe you just haven't got this time to carve out a space in your daily routine. There is good news!! You are not alone. Come and join Marty Corcoran on Sept 14 at 10am in the Persimmon Room and find out: How then shall we pray?

#### Centering Prayer / Silent Meditation

We will meet in the Willow Chapel at 8:30am

Friday, September 5

Friday, September 19

Everyone is welcome to join us. We have a brief reflection followed by 20 minutes of silence. Questions: Contact Jena Hatchett or Robert Ferre.

#### Episcopal News - Karl Bourgeois

WEEKLY SERVICE: Thursdays, 3pm in the High Flight Chapel at BSTW. This is an

Episcopal Rite II service with Holy Communion and music. ALL are welcome!

Following the service, we gather in The Bistro for fellowship and coffee.

Bible readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which follows the life of Christ through the church year - from Advent (Christ is coming) through Easter (Christ is risen) and beyond.

We are a small, but active, church group that supports and are supported by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, San Antonio. As such, opportunities to worship (in person and virtually) are numerous throughout each week\*:

Sunday: 8:30am Rite I communion service at St. Andrew's with live streaming\*

Sunday: 11am Rite II communion service at St. Andrew's with live streaming\*

Wednesday: 2pm Rite II communion service in the BSTE Chapel

Thursday: 3pm Rite II communion service in the BSTW High Flight Chapel

\* Instructions for using your computer/cellphone to live stream services are on the St. Andrew's website at https://standrewsep.net. Additional service times throughout each week, as well as links to a plethora of information on St. Andrew's and the Episcopal church, can be found on the website as well.

POINTS OF CONTACT

Bonnie Gardner (see resident roster)

Primary Contact for BSTW Episcopal Congregation; memorial services

Karl Bourgeois (see resident roster)

ALT Contact for BSTW; music, Episcopal News

Mary Bourgeois (see resident roster)

ALT Contact for BSTW; altar setup, congregational roster

Fr. David Archibald (cell) 210.478.6091; david@standrewsep.net

Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6110 N.W. Loop 410, SA, Texas 78238

(church office) 210.853.0844; Office Hours: Monday-Thursday | 9am - 12:30pm

# SPIRITUAL NEWS

#### Air Force Village II Protestant Church

#### REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

High Flight Chapel - Sundays at 9:30am & 11am

- Fellowship Time: 10:30-11am
- Missed Sunday? Catch the rebroadcast Wednesdays at 10:30am (in-house channel 1890 or Towers lobby monitors), or watch it on YouTube via a link sent out weekly by email.

Not receiving our weekly email? Request to be added by contacting Kayla at the email below.

Freedom House - Sundays at 10:45am

Liberty House (3rd Level) - Thursdays at 10:30am

Pray for Our Nation - 1st & 3rd Fridays at 10am (Helen LeMay Room)

#### Flood Relief Update

We are grateful to share that, through the generosity of our congregation and friends, we were able to raise and donate over \$20,000 to the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country to support rebuilding efforts after the recent floods. We give thanks to God for providing the resources and to each of you for your prayers and contributions. As a church family here at Blue Skies, we are thankful for the opportunity to give back to the wider San Antonio and Hill Country community.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

Bible Study with Pastor Jim Sweet

Monday, October 6th at 3:30pm | Willow Chapel

Join us on Monday, October 6 at 3:30pm in Willow Chapel for our next Bible study with Pastor Jim. He'll be leading a study through a book of the Bible, with the specific book to be announced soon. All are welcome!

### 1 Peter Bible Study

Thursdays, September 25 – November 6 | 3:30–4:45pm | Helen LeMay Room Join us for a 7-week study through the book of 1 Peter, where Peter encourages believers to stand firm in faith and live holy lives even in the face of suffering and persecution. Class size is limited to 17 participants, first come, first served. To sign up, please contact Camille Sweigart (512-755-3558) or Ken Brockway (281-740-4732).

#### SECOND CUP - MIDWEEK REFLECTION WITH PASTOR CLIFT

Wednesdays at 9am | Vista Room 11

Bring your coffee and join Pastor Clift for Second Cup—a relaxed, thoughtful gathering as we reflect on Sunday's message and explore how scripture speaks into our daily lives. Everyone is welcome!

# SPIRITUAL NEWS

#### Air Force Village II Protestant Church Continued

#### NEW CONTACT INFORMATION – LET'S STAY CONNECTED

We've updated our phone number and email addresses—please take a moment to update your records using the information below.

Whether you're interested in joining our congregation, looking for pastoral care, or simply have a question—we're here for you.

**NEW! Pastor Care Request Email** 

PastorCareRequest@afviipc.org

This shared email is a simple way to reach our ministry team with non-emergency care requests, updates, or appointments.

When emailing, please include:

- Your name (we may not recognize your email)
- A brief description of your request (e.g., hospital visit, prayer need, event request, or a desire to speak with a specific pastor)

Note: This email is monitored by the Church Administrator and our three pastors only.

#### CONTACT US DIRECTLY

- Pastor Wayne (Molly) Knutson
- 📞 (see resident roster) 🔤 PastorKnutson@afviipc.org
- Pastor Clift (Brenda) Perry
- (see resident roster) | MastorPerry@afviipc.org
- Pastor Jim (Rebecca) Sweet
- 📞 (see resident roster) | 🔤 PastorSweet@afviipc.org
- Kayla Ramsey, Church Administrator
- 📞 210-277-8133 | 🖂 KaylaRamsey@afviipc.org
- (b) NEW Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri | 9am 3pm

Thank you for helping us stay connected—we look forward to hearing from you!

#### STAY UP TO DATE

Weekly YouTube links, bulletins, and announcements are emailed to our members and friends.

Not receiving them? Let us know and we'll get you added!